

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer  
Protection

May 21, 2014 |

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [Farm to School Highlight](#)
- [General Updates - It's almost summer!](#)
- [Webinars, Conferences and Events](#)
- [Farm to School Job Openings](#)
- [Media mentions](#)
- [New resources](#)
- [Farm to School Funding Opportunities](#)

## Farm to School Highlight

**Ask Miss Heart of Wisconsin to visit your school and help with your next Farm to School event!**

Looking for a way to enrich your next Farm to School event? Miss Heart of Wisconsin 2014, Madeline Joy, would be honored to serve you and your students! Contact Miss Heart of Wisconsin to speak, cook, teach, assist or serve at your school, and most importantly, to inspire your students to achieve a healthier life. Please visit My Whole Heart (<http://joyfulmadeline.wordpress.com/contact/>) to let me know how I can help you best.



Miss Heart of Wisconsin, Madeline Joy, at a salad bar tasting at Irving Pertzsch Elementary in Onalaska.

## General Updates - It's almost summer!

### Expanded Eligibility for Summer Food and CACFP Child Care Homes

[New guidance](#) (pdf) from USDA means that more sites and homes in low-income areas might be eligible for Summer Food or for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The new guidance allows Summer Food sites and child care homes to qualify using Census Tracts in addition to Census Block Groups (CBG). The previous policy allowed only CBG. This change will allow more low-income communities to qualify Summer Food sites and child care homes.

To see if a site is eligible, use FRAC's [Summer Food Mapper](#) and [CACFP Mapper](#), which have been updated with the new data.

## USDA Summer Meals Webcasts

We have concluded our 2014 Summer Meals webcasts, and you can access the full playlist [here](#). The webcasts covered information, tips, best practices and lessons learned that will help make your summer program a total success. The series included:

- [Exploring the New USDA Summer Meals Toolkit & Website](#)
- [Be a Summer Meals Champion](#)
- [Can Elected Officials Help Feed Hungry Kids this Summer?](#)
- [Food That's In When School Is Out – The Summer Food Service Program and Afterschool Meals](#)
- [Utilizing Grants & Unique Partnerships to Serve More Summer Meals](#)
- [How Can You Solve Your Summer Meals Transportation Problems?](#)
- [Finding Ways to Keep Schools Involved in Summer Meals](#)
- [Make Your Summer Meals Site the Talk of the Town](#)

## Webinars, Conferences and Events

### Finding, Buying and Serving Local Foods: Using USDA Foods as a Resource to Purchase Local

Thursday, May 22, 2 p.m. EDT

On the next webinar, we'll turn our attention to USDA Foods. We'll discuss the history of the program and four ways USDA Foods can support districts in their local purchasing efforts. The Vermont Agency of Education will share how it has integrated USDA Foods into its local purchasing efforts.

To register for this webinar or any future sessions, please click [here](#).

### [Summertime in the School Garden: Exploring Opportunities to Support and Share Your School Garden](#)

May 28, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT

Hosted by EdWeb and the National Farm to School Network

Summertime presents both unique challenges and important opportunities when it comes to school gardens. Mary Stein, Associate Director of the National Farm to School Network, hosts two partners from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project and the USDA-FNS for a discussion of various aspects of school gardens in summer.

### [Healthy Food + Healthy Ecosystems = Healthy Neighborhoods: A summer garden program for middle school youth](#)

June 16, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT

Hosted by EdWeb

Middle-schoolers can get a lot out of the school garden experience, from growing food to learning about the science underlying the natural world. At CitySprouts summer youth program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 100 young people ages 11-13 go through a month-long summer internship program at various schoolyard garden locations.

## Farm to School Job Openings

### **Nutrition and Wellness Specialist, Hopkins Public Schools (Hopkins, MN)**

Seeking a school nutrition and healthy lifestyles dietetic technician to assist the district director of student nutrition with the implementation of the components of the Hopkins Public Schools wellness policy as part of a multidisciplinary team. Responsibilities might include menu and recipe development, leading district-wide student and staff wellness teams, doing grant work related to public health improvement, assisting kitchen staff and school nurses with special diet modifications, evaluating menus for compliance with USDA regulations, doing new product research and doing Farm to Cafeteria work. For more information, please visit this [job posting](#).

**REAP Food Group Hiring AmeriCopr Farm to School Specialists (Madison, Wisconsin)**

REAP Food Group is hiring AmeriCorps Farm to School Specialists for the upcoming school year (August 15, 2014 - August 14, 2015). Please pass along to anyone you think might be interested. REAP Food Group, a non-profit organization that connects a diverse network to nourish the links between land and table, is seeking four half-time AmeriCorps Farm to School Specialists for the 2014-2015 school year. The Farm to School program works to increase the amount of local, sustainable foods served in Madison schools and provide opportunities for children to build the knowledge and skills necessary for a lifetime of healthy, responsible eating. Application Deadline: July 11th, 2014

**MSU Center for Regional Food Systems Hiring Academic Specialist for Communications & Outreach**

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems is accepting applications for an academic specialist for cCommunications and outreach. This position will support outreach efforts to communicate CRFS project results via web, social media, publications, presentations, news releases, etc. The communications and outreach specialist will lead outreach for CRFS, disseminating information to a broad audience - including the public and internal (MSU) and external stakeholders - and identifying effective processes for staff and affiliates to communicate research and outreach project results.

## **Media mentions**

Winnebago County Farm2School recently got some press!

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014305070353>

## **New resources**

**USDA's New Fact Sheet for Cooperative Extension Professionals**

program and want to learn how to engage your local Cooperative Extension expert? Check out our new fact sheet, [How Cooperative Extension Professionals Can Support Farm to School Programs](#), to learn more. Access all of our fact sheets [here](#).

## Farm to School Funding Opportunities

### USDA, the Farm Bill and Local Food Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to [implement programs and policy](#) from the 2014 Farm Bill. Additionally, on May 8th, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said that \$48 million in loan guarantees for local food projects is now available through USDA's [Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program](#), and \$30 million is available through competitive grants via the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) [Farmers Market and Local Foods Promotion Program](#).

### [GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy Communities Regional Grants](#)

The Aetna Foundation Regional Grants Program – **GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy Communities** – funds community wellness initiatives aligned with our [Healthy Eating and Active Living](#) focus area in our designated funding locations. Grants will support local initiatives that promote eating fresh fruits and vegetables and being physically active, which can help to prevent obesity and many chronic health conditions. Grants will target underserved, low-income and minority communities where healthy food can be difficult to buy, and where social and environmental factors may limit people's ability to be physically active.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).